

FY 1997  
Higher Education  
Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education  
Grants Program

Descriptions of  
Funded Projects

Higher Education Programs  
Science and Education Resources Development  
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C.

Proposal Number: 9704203  
Grant Number: 97-38422-4543

Lead Institution: Central Arizona College  
Award Amount: \$98,100

Lead Project Director: Patrick Harrington

Project Duration: 2 Years

Encouraging Retention in Agriculture Through Enhancing the Curriculum. This project is a collaboration with Central Arizona College (CAC) and the University of Arizona (UA) to revise the agriculture program at CAC, a multicampus two-year community college and a Hispanic-Serving Institution. CAC will address articulation problems and develop a recruitment and retention program with the College of Agriculture at UA. Both institutions are located in the changing rural area of central Arizona. CAC provides accessible higher education to a large multicultural and economically diverse area. Hispanic students comprised 28.3 percent of the full-time student body in the Fall of 1996. Of those students 55 percent are low income and 92 percent are first generation who would not be able to attend college without the programs and services available at CAC. With the enhancement of two courses and development of closer ties with the UA and other agricultural representatives in Pinal County and the State, CAC will be moving into the 21st century with three primary objectives in the agriculture program: (1) expand an ERA of collaboration and coordination with UA to educate students with up-to-date knowledge in technology, (2) provide students with the opportunity to help feed the world in the 21st century, and (3) encourage students in underserved, remote areas in Pinal County to continue their education and to attract students throughout the State to enroll in courses in agriculture over the Arizona Learning System.

Proposal Number: 9704209

Grant Number: 97-38422-4563

Lead Project Director: Dr. Linda Wells

Lead Institution: California State University,  
Bakersfield

Award Amount: \$89,937

Project Duration: 2 Years

Development of an Agricultural Concentration in Biology. This project will focus on curricula design and student recruitment in agricultural sciences. It will develop an undergraduate biology degree program with concentration in agriculture, and will recruit Hispanic high school and community college students from local high schools and community colleges. Students will be actively recruited through classroom visitations, lectures, and brochures. Key components of this project are internship and research opportunities, which will be mandatory for every student. The objectives are to: (1) increase student access to educational opportunities in a program designed specifically to address their concerns, (2) enhance educational equity, (3) increase employability upon graduation, (4) facilitate cooperative initiatives between the private sector, local government, and California State University, Bakersfield faculty, and (5) to act as a resource for the agricultural community within the more rural community of Kern County. The benefits to be gained from this project will be that agribusinesses will gain a more educated work force, personal contacts with prospective employees, and access to scientific expertise for their specialized problems.

Proposal Number: 9704188  
Grant Number: 97-38422-4559  
Lead Project Director: Laura Calderon

Lead Institution: California State  
University, Los Angeles  
Award Amount: \$89,935  
Project Duration: 2 Years

A University Nutritional Science Program Development/Enhancement Project. The focus areas in this project will be teaching enhancements, curriculum materials development, increased use of technology, student experiential learning, and student recruitment. The project objectives are to improve the quality of education for foods, nutrition and dietetic students, update the existing food laboratory, increase the use of technology in the classroom, and increase the opportunity for education to minority students. It is anticipated that the results of the project will provide the following: (1) the increased enrollment and graduation of minority students in the Nutritional Science programs, (2) increased knowledge and utilization of technology by entry-level professionals, (3) increased skills acquisition through cooperative and collaborative learning techniques, and (4) produce culturally sensitive entry-level professionals. The Coordinated Dietetics Program at California State University, Los Angeles has a great reputation that brings students from not only outside the state of California but also from other countries. The project will be of value to the state, regional, national and international levels through its enrichment/enhancement/diversification of entry level dietetic professionals. In addition, distance learning will provide opportunities for education worldwide; a benefit that will transcend the project well past the grant period.

Proposal Number: 9704207/9706699  
Grant Number: 97-35422-4591  
Lead Project Director: Linda Prentiss

Lead Institution: Porterville College  
Award Amount: \$29,215  
Project Duration: 2 Years

Agriculture at Porterville College. The project will focus on curricula design and scientific instrumentation at Porterville College, a 2-year community college located in the fertile southern San Joaquin Valley of central California. The emphasis will be to develop a comprehensive agricultural program of instruction leading to a certificate of proficiency, specialized associate degree, and an articulated transfer program within the university. Students from the local feeder high school district with a full agriculture program, will participate in a program of transfer level instruction for admittance to either of the three main agricultural program-offering California universities, or complete a certificate program which will lead to immediate job opportunities. This two year project will take the nucleus of a college level agricultural program and tailor it to the needs of the community. Objectives of this project include: (a) collaborating with the two CSU's, the University of California, Davis, and the local high school district to determine a sound path of operation, (b) reviewing curriculum and equipment necessary and appropriate to this path, (c) designing a curriculum, (d) identifying prospective faculty, (e) identifying and recruiting prospective students, (f) strengthening the matriculation and transfer ties of the program, and (g) developing, refining, and evaluating the program plan. This project will strengthen higher education in the food and agricultural sciences by educating the work force of a specific segment of rural California. It will open doors for students and student-employees who wish to advance their knowledge and employability in agriculturally related industries. Project results will be disseminated among California Community College, rural community colleges within the United States, the California State University Chancellor's Office and the University of California President's Office.

Proposal Number: 9704198

Lead Institution: Miami-Dade Community

Grant Number: 97-38422 4544  
Lead Project Director: Dr. Barbara Rosenthal

College, Wolfson Campus  
Award Amount: \$89,996  
Project Duration: 2 Years

Food and Beverage Export Program. The project will create a Food and Beverage Export Program at Miami-Dade Community College, Wolfson Campus. The program will consist of five three-credit college courses which will serve as either a stand-alone certificate or as a track within an Associate Degree in International Trade. The goal of the project is to attract, retain and graduate students capable of exporting food and beverages to the Caribbean, Latin America and world-wide, thereby increasing, as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, the number of Hispanics who enter the food and beverage industry. The projected outcome of the project is the institutionalization of five courses (Introduction to Food and Beverage Exporting, Product Handling and Documentation in Food and Beverage Exporting, Food and Beverage Export Marketing; Export Distribution of Food Products; and Merchandising in the Food and Beverage Export Business) inclusion in the regular course offerings of the institution, and self-support of the courses through student fees and state subsidy, thereby increasing the number of individuals in the Hispanic community capable of exporting food and beverages.

Proposal Number: 9704189  
Grant Number: 97-38422-4592  
Lead Project Director: Philip Rouse

Lead Institution: Trinidad State Junior  
College  
Award Amount: \$89,995  
Project Duration: 2 Years

High Desert Aquaculture Using Aquifer's, High Technology, and Innovative Training. Trinidad State Junior College - San Luis Valley Education Center (TSJC/SLVEC) has begun a new program in aquaculture preparing students to work in the expanding fish production industry. This is an excellent new business to best utilize the valley's unique environment of deep aquifers, artesian hot springs, abundant sun light, and an eager, presently under utilized, low income workforce. The desire is to improve the opportunity that Hispanic residents will have become a prosperous part of a new agribusiness. Students are trained in an innovative, experiential program designed to provide them with both technical skills to work in aquaculture, management, design, and creative skills to create their own aqua-farm. Funding will provide assistance to faculty in becoming better teachers in these new techniques, and for poor students, primarily Hispanic, to be able to afford to attend this intensive program. An aquafarm with a high production geo-thermal well is available to provide a set of cascading high tech fish ponds to raise fish in coldwater, coolwater, and warmwater environments. Area wetlands and its endangered crane species are protected, as well as students are taught good agribusiness and environmental management skills. TSJC/SLVEC will provide and pay internships for 5 low income students to join the institution's other students in an intensive experiential learning environment, much like a medical internship and residency. Residents of the valley will be assisted with the ability to acquire and create aqua-farms on existing unused corner sections of farm land now used primarily for potatoes, rotated with grains. Presently, underrepresented Hispanic families are being assisted to obtain individual or cooperative ownership of these new aqua-farms. The project is expected to expand the acceptance and impact of shifting farm activity in the valley into the high demand, high value fish farming industry, and reduce the valleys almost complete dependence on the single crop of potatoes and its cycle of good and bad years.

The projected outcome will be better use of Colorado's natural resources and its people and assisting the Nation in producing domestic fish efficiently in a world shifting to fish as a more valuable component.

Project Number: 9704216

Lead Institution: Albuquerque

Grant Number: 97-38411-4582  
Lead Project Director: R. Barry King

Technical Vocational Institution  
Award Amount: \$178,683  
Duration: 2 Years

Project PPACT: A Partnership to Promote Agriculture Careers and Training Summary. Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute (TVI), in partnership with New Mexico State University (NMSU) and Carnegie Research Institute (CRI), will collaborate on this curriculum design and faculty preparation project.

The project's goal is to increase the number of Hispanics entering the workforce in agriculture and food science-related careers. The three objectives are to: (1) develop two new courses in agriculture and food-related areas and revise TVI's Introductory Soil Science, Pest Management, Food Sciences, and Environment courses, (2) hold a minimum of five professional development activities for faculty, and (3) develop articulation agreements on agri-science courses at TVI and NMSU. The project will enhance not only the quality of TVI's courses but also the opportunities for transfer, so students will pursue goals of an advanced degree in agriculture and food sciences. Project benefits include institutionalizing agricultural education at the institution, developing a more knowledgeable faculty that will inspire students, and assisting the Hispanic southwest area in preserving a centuries-old tradition of agriculture. The primary benefit is the partnership of VCI, NMSU, and CRI which will expand the project and foster other collegial links. The partners plan in the future to create a multi-tiered program that will recruit students in the high schools, offer mentoring and other support to improve retention, facilitate transfer, and offer a range of financial assistance. The long-term effort will result in more Hispanic leaders in agriculture and food science.

Proposal Number: 9704195  
Grant Number: 97-38422-4583  
Lead Project Director: Salvatore Martino

Lead Institution: Eugenio Maria De  
Hostos Community College  
Award Amount: \$150,000  
Project Duration: 2 Years

The Hostos-Leham Collaborative Dietetic Technician Program. The project is a collaborative effort performed by the Division of Academic Affairs of Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College of the City University of New York and Herbert H. Lehman College of the City University of New York. The collaboration maximizes the institution's development and use of resources and improves its dietetics, foods, and nutrition teaching programs. Hostos will collaborate with Lehman College to develop a Dietetic Technician Program that will lead to an Associate in Science (A.S.) degree. The specific target areas for this project are: (a) Curricula Design, Materials Development, and Library Resources and, (b) Student Recruitment and Retention. Working in collaboration with Lehman, Hostos will establish a rigorous Dietetic Technician program that will enable Hispanic students and other members of the Hostos community either to go forward onto further college-level study in dietetics, foods, and nutrition at Lehman or to begin new careers as Dietetic Technicians in the Bronx and extended New York metro areas. Mentoring, tutoring, extensive language acquisition training, and complete student support services combined with focused degree programs will produce academically prepared graduates. Hostos' proposed Dietetic Technician Program will be another avenue for success available to students from the College's surrounding community.

Proposal Number: 9704206  
Grant Number: 97-38422-4498  
Lead Project Director: Dr. Jose Rivera

Lead Institution: University of New Mexico  
Award Amount: \$90,000  
Project Duration: 2 Years

Strengthening the Skills Components of Integrated Resources Management Curricula. In partnership with a consortium of academic units and research related centers, the Office of Graduate Studies will implement this project to strengthen the skills components of integrated resources management curricula at the University of New Mexico (UNM). Though relatively young, the Master of Water Resources Administration (MWRA) and the Master of Community and Regional Planning Program (MCRP), the university's two degree programs, are multidisciplinary in scope and have developed strong, innovative curricula in integrated resource management, rural development, natural resource and environmental planning, and water resource administration. This project will expand the capacity of these unique academic programs to impact graduate students pursuing careers in community-based rural planning and water resource administration in the context of changing environments in the region, the nation and globally. The project's objective is to strengthen the skills building components of MARA and MCRP curricula that will impact future cohorts of students more effectively by institutionalizing linkages to collaborating agencies and on-campus centers. As a Hispanic-Serving Institution, the UNM pool of applicants, now and in future years, will result in a diverse mix of students graduating from these programs every year who will be fully capable of entering the workforce within the mission areas of USDA and its related agencies.

Proposal Number: 9704217  
Grant Number: 97-38422-4582  
Lead Project Director: Yma Lopez

Lead Institution: Interamerican University of  
Puerto Rico  
Award Amount: \$89,919  
Project Duration: 2 Years

Student Recruitment and Retention in Agribusiness Technology. The goal of this project is to successfully retain and graduate low income students for careers in the marketing of agricultural products through the establishment of an associate degree in Agribusiness Technology. This will be a new program at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico - Ponce campus. This program will recruit students from the pool of recent high school graduates. It will gain resources through collaboration with local agencies and use private farms and facilities as on-site labs. Incentives are aimed at attracting and retaining students by creating necessary conditions for the student to concentrate in an intensive, hands-on program by minimizing additional economic costs. The degree itself consists of four semesters plus two summers and an internship. Direct contact with private producers (five to eight agribusiness farms and three packaging and processing plants) will provide field experiences and networking for firsthand contact with professional sectors. The internship will provide mentoring within a specific short project congruent to the associate degree. The project is expected to start September 1997 and candidates are expected to graduate by December 1999. Continuation plans focus on outreach to other sectors with potential for this degree. Plans include incorporation of a private agribusiness internship efforts and developing a mutually beneficial exchange of ideas, students, and expertise between Inter American University of Puerto Rico - Ponce Campus and the areas' growing agribusiness sector.

Proposal Number: 9704193  
Grant Number:-38422~499  
Lead Project Director: Dick Whipple

Lead Institution: Southwest Texas Junior  
College  
Award Amount: \$88,895  
Project Duration: 2 Years

SVVTJC: Educating for 21st Century Agriculture. Strengthening Agricultural Management Program Through Internet Integration. This project is a curriculum and agribusiness management project at Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC). The long term plan of the project is to: (1) utilize and integrate the Internet into the Agricultural Management curriculum, library resources, and staff development efforts to strengthen the quality and broaden the scope of SWTJC's Farm & Ranch Management and Agribusiness A.A.S. degree plans; (2) to use Internet accessibility to strengthen and diversify SWTJC's agriculture-related recruitment process by specifically identifying, recruiting, educating, graduating and matriculating more of the region's Hispanic population; and (3) encouraging the areas' Agriculture Tech Prep high school students and agribusiness workers to pursue undergraduate or graduate degrees in agriculture related fields. The five basic objectives are to: (1) increase efficiency in Farm/Ranch Management and Agribusiness by training students how to utilize Internet resources, (2) enhance the learning process via the integration of Internet resources into the program's courses, (3) acquire more up-to-date agricultural library resources, (4) expand the technology base of SWTJC that will recruit a diverse population of students, and (5) encourage lifelong learning in agriculture

Proposal Number: 9704191  
Grant Number: 97-384224709  
Lead Project Director: Dr. Glenn Doolittle, Jr.

Lead Institution: Rancho Santiago College  
Award Amount: \$179,980  
Project Duration: 2 Years

Partnership to Promote Diversity in Food System Education. This is a joint project between: (1) California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), San Luis Obispo's Agribusiness and Food Science Departments; and (2) Rancho Santiago College's (RSC) Business and Food and Nutrition Departments. It will enhance curriculum design and materials development, instruction delivery systems, student recruitment and retention, and student experiential learning. The objectives are to: (1) expand the availability of college-level food system/agribusiness education to new audiences; (2) increase underrepresented students' interest in and preparation for further study and careers in food system fields; (3) create a continual flow of outstanding underrepresented minority students who pursue postsecondary education in agriculture food programs; and (4) encourage other educational institutions to implement similar partnerships by widely disseminating the results of this effort through presentations, a written report, and the World Wide Web. The specific strategies for achieving the objectives are: (a) collaborative development of three courses relevant to existing programs at RSC; (b) innovative design and marketing of courses to increase student enrollment and attract professionals in the field, and other individuals seeking new careers; (c) use of video conferencing and other telecommunications techniques to deliver the new courses; and (d) development of recruitment strategies, including internship positions and visitations to Cal-Poly, to identify and recruit majors into food systems curricula. The outcomes of this project will be presented at the 1998 and 1999 USDA/UAL International Agribusiness Conference, 1999 National Agriculture College Teachers Association Conference, and 1999 Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Conference.

Proposal Number: 9704204  
Grant Number: 97-38422-4500  
Lead Project Director: Dr. Gary McBryde

Lead Institution: Texas A&M University -  
Kingsville  
Award Amount: \$180,000  
Project Duration: 2 Years

Meeting the Needs of South Texas Food Marketing. This cooperative alliance between Palo Alto College (PAC) in urban San Antonio and the more rural Texas A&M University Kingsville (TAMUK) will enhance training in food marketing management. The project addresses curricula design, instructional delivery systems, and student recruitment. Training will be enhanced by increasing the management-oriented food marketing content of the food science and technology degree at PAC, and the agribusiness and food and nutrition degrees at TAMUK. The seven objectives to be implemented within this project to achieve coordinated and enhanced curricula are: (1) develop or adapt four courses ( Food Science and Technology I, Food Science, Food Logistics Management, and Food Retail Marketing); (2) teach each course—three as interactive video courses with complementing interactive Internet material; (3) cooperatively develop a long-range planning document for a food marketing management emphasis; (4) build articulation (2+2) agreements out of the enhanced curricula; (5) evaluate PAC's and TAMUK's strengths and weaknesses in the long distance learning environment; (6) use an advisory council to refine a planned food marketing management baccalaureate degree; and (7) promote and offer scholarships to potential students. Expected results from this project include a strong inter-institutional alliance worthy of emulation, enhanced curricula, and strengthened industry contacts established through an advisory council formed to guide and evaluate the project.